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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1958





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STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Combined Appointment)

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

N. RAWLINS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

J. M. STAMP, M.L.P.H.I.

J. B. SALT, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Clerical Staff

Miss K. R. BROOKS

S. A. W. BROWN

Mrs. J. K. BROWN (nee HARDY)

Miss M. A. SMITH (Combined Appointment)

Rodent Operators

E. BUDDEN

A. J. WATSON



Tel: Dorchester 1000  
Saturdays a.m. - 1014

County Clinic,  
Glyde Path Road,  
Dorchester.

To The Chairman and Members of  
The Dorchester Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District of Dorchester for the year 1958. It is written on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

The incidence of infectious diseases has been low during the year, but twelve cases of Food Poisoning were notified from a local hospital, investigation did not reveal the cause. Only one case of Poliomyelitis occurred, with paralysis; she had not been vaccinated.

No case of lung Tuberculosis was notified, but four cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred.

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected is gradually increasing. The total number of animals killed during the last few years were

1955(part year) - 551	1956 - 18,956	1957 - 23,992	1958 - 31,092
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Owing to the eradication scheme for Tuberculosis, the percentage of diseased cattle slaughtered was high, this necessitated a greater amount of time being spent on inspection.

Protracted investigations were necessary at one food factory to find the cause why certain products did not "keep", eventually this was solved.

Two Ministry Inquiries were held during the year, both were on the provision of sewers and sewage works, one at Charminster and the other for the extension of sewers for Broadmayne.

The restriction of the housing building programme (because of financial reasons) continued during the year, even so 29 houses were completed and 24 had commenced, but the granting of financial help for improvements continued unrestricted and 79 grants were approved.

A report was made to the Public Health Committee in January by the Senior Public Health Inspector on 178 houses surveyed since 1957, placing them in their various categories and recommending action under the Housing Acts.

At the request of the County Council, a special meeting was held to discuss informally the rehousing of old people. Dr. Lisney, the County Medical Officer of Health, submitted information regarding the necessary types of adaptation to houses which would be helpful and possible financial aid which might be forthcoming from the County Council for this type of house.

A comprehensive survey of the water supplies at Toller Porcorum was carried out and the results of sampling showed the need for providing a satisfactory supply.

Special reports were made to the Public Health Committee on a) Radiation Hazards and b) Accidents in the Home.

Talks and films were given again to school leavers, the subjects were Home Safety and Posture.

The response to Poliomyelitis vaccination has been excellent, especially in the younger group, but the 16 - 25 age group are still coming forward for vaccination. The number which completed vaccination (two doses) during the year were 1,953.

A sessional meeting of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health was held in Dorchester on the 10th October and the subjects discussed were 1) Winfrith Atomic Research Establishment - Anticipated impact on Dorset 2) Mental Health - Outlook for the Future. Over a hundred delegates from Local Authorities within a 50 mile radius were present and interesting discussions took place on both papers and many expressed a wish that a further session should be held.

May I again thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their understanding and help during the year, also Mr. Rawlins and the rest of the Public Health Staff for their continued endeavours and my colleagues on the staff for their co-operation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. E. J. Gordon Wallace who so kindly deputises for me when I am on leave.

Your obedient Servant

I. B. LAWRENCE

Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures for 1957 shown in brackets)

Area	...	...	...	...	128,606 acres
Resident Population	...	...	...	17,190	(16,850)
Number of houses inhabited at the end of 1958				5,326	(5,222)
Rateable Value (31st March, 1959)	...	...	...	£132,132	(£130,497)
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£522	(£500)

## VITAL STATISTICS

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths 17,190

Comparability Factor	Births	1.25
	Deaths	0.75

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	148	113	261	
Illegitimate	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	
Totals	<u>155</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>271</u>	(277)

### Still Births

Legitimate	2	8	10	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	(8)

<u>Deaths - All Causes</u>	113	145	258	(239)
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### Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality)

Legitimate	2	3	5	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	(5)

### Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality)

Legitimate	1	2	3	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	(4)

			<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Birth Rate x Comparability Factor ...	...	...	19.7	20.5	19.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales ...	...	...	16.4	16.4	15.7
Death Rate x Comparability Factor ...	...	...	11.25	10.8	11.27
Death Rate for England and Wales ...	...	...	11.7	14.2	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate ...	...	...	19.0	18.0	7.3
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales...			22.5	23.0	23.8

#### DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	-	1	1	(-)
Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	-	1	1	(-)
Diphtheria ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Meningitis ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Measles ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	-	1	1	(-)
Cancer of stomach ...	...	...	1	4	5	(5)
Cancer of lung, bronchus ...	...	...	6	-	6	(6)
Cancer of breast...	...	...	-	6	6	(4)
Cancer of uterus...	...	...	-	3	3	(1)
Other Cancers ...	...	...	6	13	19	(17)
Acute Anaemia ...	...	...	-	-	-	(1)
Diabetes ...	...	...	1	-	1	(-)
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	...	...	23	21	44	(35)
Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	20	5	25	(26)
High Blood Pressure with Heart Disease ...	...	...	3	2	5	(6)
Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	22	51	73	(65)
Other circulatory disease...	...	...	6	2	8	(6)
Influenza ...	...	...	1	-	1	(3)
Pneumonia ...	...	...	-	3	3	(7)
Bronchitis ...	...	...	4	7	11	(3)
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	...	5	3	8	(4)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	4	1	5	(5)
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	-	-	-	(2)
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	1	-	1	(3)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Congenital malformations ...	...	...	1	2	3	(2)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	5	16	21	(24)
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea ...	...	...	-	-	-	(1)
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	3	-	3	(6)
All other accidents ...	...	...	1	2	3	(5)
Suicide ...	...	...	-	1	1	(2)
All Causes ...	...	...	113	145	258	(239)

Again there has been a slight increase in the population figures as estimated by the Registrar General.

The birth rate is still appreciably above that for England and Wales and the death rate is below that of England and Wales.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table summarises the notifications of infectious diseases made during the year :-

Disease	Total Cases Notified Age Periods										TOTAL	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65+	A.U.			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	4	2	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-
Measles	-	11	13	31	5	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	4	1	12	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



## TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1958, the following cases and deaths from Tuberculosis were notified :- (figures for 1957 shown in brackets)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
TOTALS ..	-(7)	-(7)	-(-)	4(-)	-(-)	1(-)	-(-)	-(-)
<hr/>								

It is pleasing to note that no cases of lung tuberculosis were notified during the year, this compares very favourably with last year when fourteen new cases occurred.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

I wish to thank once again Dr. T. V. Cooper of the County Laboratory and Dr. G. H. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory and their staff for their continued help and co-operation during the year.

The following is a table of specimens submitted to the Laboratories:-  
(figures for 1957 shown in brackets)

Throat Swabs	...	47	(104)	Milk	...	154	(164)
Faeces	...	9	(32)	Ice Cream	...	-	(8)
Blood	...	9	(21)	Water	...	584	(370)
Ringworm	...	-	(2)	Sewage	...	-	(1)
Sputum	...	124	(171)	Miscellaneous	...	40	(28)

## HOUSING

<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1958</u>	<u>Completed since war.</u>
Temporary -	-	-	-
Permanent -			
Traditional Type	24	29	443
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	60
Converted into Flats	-	-	-
Hutted Camps (6 demolished)	-	-	18

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Number of Council Houses (pre-war) 199

Number of post war houses completed and occupied at 31/12/58 503

Total number of Council Houses at 31/12/58 702

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### Improvement Grants

Number of dwellings in respect of which  
approval was given during 1958 79

Number of dwellings in respect of which  
approval was given prior to 1958 335

Total 414

A new post of Housing Manager was created during the year and Mr. E. J. Hathway was appointed the first Housing Manager. He should be a great asset to the Council as the houses owned by the Council now number 702.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES

To call the ambulance for routine work, ring Dorchester 420, in an emergency ask the exchange for Ambulance. Always state urgency, nature of case, full address and which ambulance is required, e.g. sitting or stretcher case.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Only one case was brought to my notice during the year, he lived on his own under poor conditions, but was quite active until he was taken ill and was removed voluntarily.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

A fortnightly service is being maintained in the district, the main disposal site being at Warmwell, this necessitates a long carry for some of the loads; the smaller sites are used to reduce this where it is possible. The tip is well maintained and the method of layering is used in disposal.

## WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am indebted to Mr. Forbes the Water Engineer, for the following information.

A water supply scheme for the villages of Abbotsbury and Portesham has commenced, progress is fairly good and completion is anticipated in October 1959.

In the village of Cattistock, extensions have been made from the existing supply to the Council Housing Estate at Meadow View and for some private development.

A scheme for the supply of a number of farms has been completed in the Higher Kingcombe area.

The sewage scheme for Chickerell village has commenced and I am sure all members of the Council are pleased that at last this has been possible. The clay nature of the subsoil in this area caused repeated nuisances in some of the ditches which were being fouled and necessitating numerous visits by the Public Health Inspectors.

## WATERCRESS

Following an adverse report from Birmingham on samples of watercress from our area, investigations were carried out. This involved quite a considerable amount of time in visits and sampling.

The sources of the water supplies to the beds were sampled and in some cases cut out, the method of picking, packing and transit of the cress was checked.

As a result no further complaints have been received.



THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED BY THE  
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

HOUSING

Inspections and visits carried out:-

Number of houses inspected	--	(a) Under Housing Act	96
		(b) Under Public Health Act	2
Number of return visits	--	(a) Under Housing Act	765
		(b) Under Public Health Act	3
Number of general visits			120
Number of visits in connection with overcrowding			10

Subsequent action taken and general progress:-

Summary of notices served	-- Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	102
		(b) Under Public Health Act	2
	-- Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act	
		(i) Closing Orders	8
		(ii) Demolition Orders	Nil
		(iii) Undertakings	1
		(iv) Repair	Nil
		(b) Under Public Health Act	2
Houses rendered fit after service of notices including those in respect of which notices were served in previous years.	-- Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	21
		(b) Under Public Health Act	2
	-- Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act	Nil
		(b) Under Public Health Act	Nil
Number of houses demolished during the year			3

In investigations of individual supplies, four notices have been served requiring connection to the main supply or improvement to existing facilities, and one notice has been complied with.

Sampling

Total number of samples taken	(a) From 5 Statutory Undertakings	129
	(b) From 67 Private Supplies	236
Results - Bacteriological examination	(a) Satisfactory (from 39 supplies)	155
	(b) Suspect (from 20 supplies)	35
	(c) Unsatisfactory (from 51 supplies)	173
Chemical Analysis	(a) Satisfactory (from 2 supplies)	2

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Meat Inspection:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	856	2901	1002	2449	23884	31092
Number inspected	856	2901	1001	2449	23800	31007
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	34	7	10	28	82
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	72	609	4	74	2738	3697
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.76	29.06	1.10	3.43	11.62	12.19

# Meat Inspection (Contd.)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	33	2	-	6	42
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	69	772	15	-	461	1317
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.18	27.75	1.70	-	1.96	4.38
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	14	-	-	-	19
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	9	-	-	-	14
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total weight of meat condemned - 47 tons 4 cwts. 2 qrs. 9 lbs.						

## (b) Sampling:-

### (i) Milk

Samples taken for Bacteriological examination Nil

Samples taken for Biological examination Nil

### (ii) Ice Cream

Samples taken Nil



(c) Food Premises:-

There are a total number of 193 in the area comprising:-

Bakehouses	10
Butchers	7
Grocers, Post Offices etc., also selling food	65
Fried Fish Premises	2
Hotels, Public Houses and Guest Houses	59
School Canteens, including food service	25
Dairies	3
Food Factory	1
Food Premises	2
Cafes	15
Canteens and Snack Bars	4

Of these premises, 54 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and 3 under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

During the year 47 visits of inspection were made to food premises, and arising from these inspections 3 informal notices were served. During the same period 1 informal notice was complied with.

(d) Food Condemnation:-

The surrender has been accepted during the year of the following quantities of foodstuffs:-

- |                       |          |        |         |                       |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|---------|-----------------------|
| (i) Tinned Foodstuffs | 1 cwt.   | 0 qrs. | 24 lbs. | 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. |
| (ii) Other Foodstuffs | 19 cwts. | 3 qrs. | 1 lb.   |                       |

Disposal of condemned food

- (i) Meat, after staining, for animal feeding and manufacture into manures.
- (ii) Tinned and similar foods, by burial.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

Ice cream is not manufactured in this area.

# RODENT CONTROL

The work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operators is shown in the following summary.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All Others	Total
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	6	236	13	8	263
(b) Survey	5	4007	345	205	4562
(c) Otherwise	1	-	-	2	3
Total inspections carried out	12	4243	358	215	4828
Re-inspections carried out	6	12	8	7	33
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats - Major	2	2	7	-	11
Minor	13	611	20	18	662
(b) Mice - Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	152	1	3	157
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	9	753	15	12	789
Re-treatments	7	12	5	6	30
Number of notices served under Section 4					
(a) Treatment	-	-	2	5	7
(b) Structural work	-	-	-	-	-
Number of 'block' control schemes carried out - 1.					



FACTORIES ACTS, 1947 & 1948

(a) Factories:-

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authorities	104	6	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	-	-	-
TOTAL	152	6	2	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Prosecu- tions
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2				
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
TOTAL	2				



FACTORIES ACTS (contd.)

(b) Outworkers:-

Number of Outworkers employed by:-

Net Manufacturers	86
Clothes Manufacturers	<u>44</u>
Total	<u>130</u>

Summary of inspections carried out during the year by:-

(i) Public Health Officers

Housing	996
Food & Drugs	605
General work	<u>1914</u>
	3515

(ii) Rodent Operators

<u>4828</u>
<u>8343</u>









